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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

DO WSRIT 79-048

12 December 1979

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NOTE

Death Threat to Buenos Aires Herald Editor

Robert Cox, the editor of the Buenos Aires Herald in Argentina, intends to leave the country on 16 December for a year's leave of absence from his position at the newspaper. The editor's action follows the receipt of a letter which contains a "warning" that he and his family might be killed by government forces unless the family departs Argentina. Two U.S. Embassy officers mentioned in the letter as the editor's friends were also warned to leave the country. Editor Cox has taken the letter to the Minister of Interior, who has promised to investigate the matter. Although the authors of the letters purport to be members of the Montonero Peronist Movement (MPM - commonly known as the Montoneros), neither Cox nor U.S. Embassy officials believe that the Montoneros were responsible for the threat. Editor Cox opines that such threats of reprisals are without foundation, and it is his belief that the authors of the letters may be involved with Argentine military security forces. U.S. Embassy officials believe that security forces operating without Government of Argentina authorization or knowledge may well have been responsible. 3.5(c)

The Buenos Aires Herald editor, who holds dual Argentine and British citizenships, was threatened in September 1979 by unidentified elements. Editor Cox suspects that the recent threat letter was sent by the same individuals who threatened him in September.

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